

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The present amendment is being filed under a Certificate of Mailing.

Claims 6, 14, and 20-31 remain pending in the present application. Claims 6 and 14 have been amended. No claims have been added.

§102 Rejection

Claims 6, 14, and 20-31 have been rejected as being anticipated under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) by U.S. Pat. No. 4,204,531 to Aginsky ("Aginsky"). Independent claim 6 has been amended to include the limitation that the "second component defines an outer periphery, said outer periphery having a shape that replicates an outer periphery of the implant."

Aginsky does not disclose such a groove and protrusion. The two branches 10 of Aginsky includes perforations 11 and links 12. As shown in FIGS. 1-6, these components do not have an outer periphery that matches the outer periphery of an implant. For at least this reason, claims 6 and 14 – and their dependents – are believed to be allowable.

Conclusion

For the above-described reasons it is respectfully submitted that the rejections of claims 6, 14, and 20-31 have been overcome and are currently in condition for allowance. Early Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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